

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 11, and 24 in the following manner.

1. **(Previously Presented)** A plant cultivation system for growing salt-tolerant terrestrial plants in saline water, comprising:

- i. a plant support comprising a flexible buoyant portion; and
- ii. at least one salt-tolerant terrestrial plant in contact with the plant support, wherein the plant support is buoyant in the saline water, and wherein at least a portion of the plant contacts the saline water.

2. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein the saline water comprises water selected from the group consisting of seawater, brackish water, lake water, groundwater, pondwater and water in a reclamation, remediation, or cropping system.

3. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein the saline water is in a location selected from the group consisting of open ocean, a coastal area, an estuary, a delta, a pond, a sump pond, a lake, an aquifer, a water reclamation facility, a phytoremediation site, a harbor, a marine agriculture farm, and a desalination facility.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein the saline water further comprises a contaminant selected from the group consisting of a pesticide, an organic pollutant, a ~~PCB-polychlorinated biphenyl~~, a hydrocarbon, nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the saline water further comprises a metal ion contaminant selected from the group consisting of lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenate, copper, and zinc.

6. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein the plant support comprises a sheet material in contact with a buoyant edge or frame.

7. **(Original)** The system of claim 1, wherein the plant support comprises a growth medium.

8. **(Original)** The system of claim 7, wherein the growth medium is at least partially contained in a housing.

9. **(Original)** The system of claim 8, wherein the buoyant portion is selected from at least one of the group consisting of: the growth medium and the housing.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 6, wherein said sheet is capable of being suspended at or near a surface of a body of saline water and wherein at least one buoyant support member is in contact with the sheet.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one buoyant support member forms a supporting structure for the ~~platform-cultivation system~~.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 10, wherein the buoyant support member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a natural material, a synthetic material, wood, bamboo, plastic, polypropylene, steel, fiberglass, foam, plastic, and rubber.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 10, wherein the sheet comprises a material selected from the group consisting of: shade cloth, a plastic film, netting, a textile, ground cover, screen, a woven material, a nonwoven material, bubble wrap, and styrofoam.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 10, wherein a space for growth of a terrestrial plant is present in a region between two buoyant support members.

15-19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, further comprising:

- iii. at least one growth medium capable of being suspended at the surface of the saline body of water, wherein the growth medium comprises at least one salt-tolerant terrestrial plant, plant part, or seed; and
- iv. at least one buoyant support member supporting the growth medium.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 20, wherein the growth medium comprises at least one substance selected from the group consisting of: peat, peat moss, an artificial soil component, natural soil, a soil amendment, a hydrophobic particle, an organic fertilizer, and a plant growth nutrient, and manure.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 20, wherein the growth medium is contained in a housing, the housing comprising a material selected from the group consisting of: shade cloth, a plastic film, netting, a textile, ground cover, screen, a woven material, a nonwoven material, bubble wrap, and styrofoam.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 20, wherein an evaporation-protective layer is provided at a surface above the growth medium package to inhibit contact of the growth medium with air.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The system of claim 1, wherein said salt-tolerant terrestrial plant comprises plant material, wherein at least a portion of the plant material is contacted by the saline water, and further wherein at least one plant is grown from the plant material while the platform-cultivation system is afloat in the saline water.

25. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 24, wherein the plant material is selected from the group consisting of a seed, a cutting, a root, a whole plant, and a tuber.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 24, wherein the plant material is contacted with the saline water by at least one of the group consisting of: direct contact, wicking, and irrigation.

27-28. **(Cancelled)**

29. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of: *Salicornia* spp., *Rhizophora mangle*, *Batis maritima*, *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, *Myoporum sandwicense*, *Thespesia populanea*, and *Scaevola taccada*.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The system of claim 1, wherein the plant is a cultivated crop plant.

31-46. **(Cancelled)**